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Work in the Black Belt
Of Southwest Georgia

Within a Radius of 50 Miles 200,000 Negroes Can be Reached

MANY OF OUR STUDENTS WORK IN THE PEACH CANNERIES DURING VACATION

rt Valley High and Industrial School

FORT VALLEY, GA.

Incorporated Under the Laws of Georgia, 1895

objects are: To Teach the Head to Think, the Heart to Love, and the Hands to Work

. HUNT,
Principal.

J. H. TORBERT,
Ass't Prin. and Fin. Agt.

The bequest of
Daniel Murray,
Washington, D. C.
1925.

LC 2852
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FORT VALLEY
High and Industrial School

Leaflet No. 4

Located at Fort Valley, Ga., 29 miles southwest of Macon, in the "Black Belt" of Southwest Georgia, the Fort Valley High and Industrial School stands for the moral, intellectual and industrial development of the colored people of the surrounding country. Within 50 miles 200,000 colored people can be reached by the institution. The blacks outnumber the whites in this section three to one.

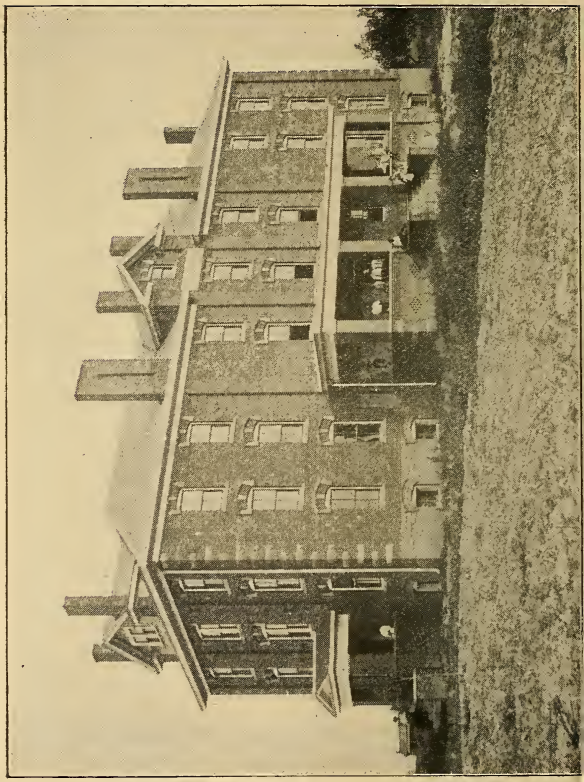
PURPOSE

The institution aims to take hold of the young men and women from the country districts and to fit them by a special course of training to understand the needs of our people, and also to give to them the ability and skill to cope with conditions as they exist, and thus become the real teachers and leaders in the country districts.

ENROLLMENT

The school employs fifteen teachers and officers and the enrollment varies from 350 to 500 pupils from year to year. The size of the cotton crop and the price at which it is

THE COLLIS P. HUNTINGTON MEMORIAL HALL
Girls' Dormatory



Erected by students in building trades

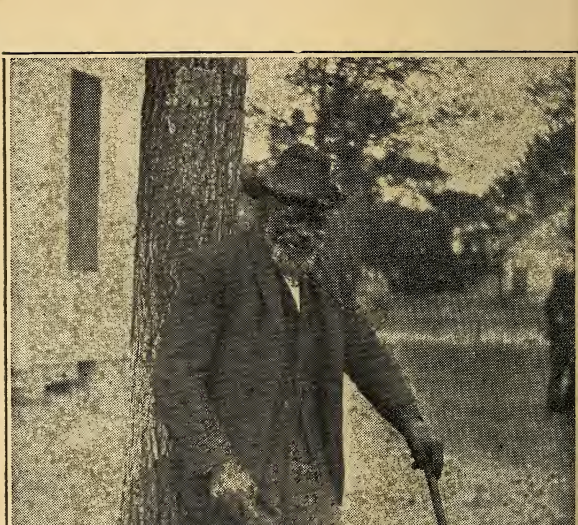
sold have much to do with determining the number of pupils in the Negro schools in Georgia.

The prosperity—indeed, we might almost say, the very existence—of the masses in this section depends upon cotton, and many Negro boys and girls see their hope of attending school vanish in the small crop or low price of that staple.

A larger farm, well equipped, would enable us to give profitable employment to many more young men, who would be taugnt the value of diversified farming and at the same time have the advantages offered by our night school.

COURSE OF STUDY

The literary training covers the English branches and such sciences as bear particularly upon the industries taught—special attention being given to the training of teachers for the rural schools. Our students are drawn very largely from the farms, and in our training special emphasis is laid upon the importance of farm work. The subject of agriculture and practical farm work is made a part of each student's course. Our plan is to keep the student in close touch and sympatny with the occupation in which most of our people are engaged. This plan, to keep the students in touch with their former surroundings and



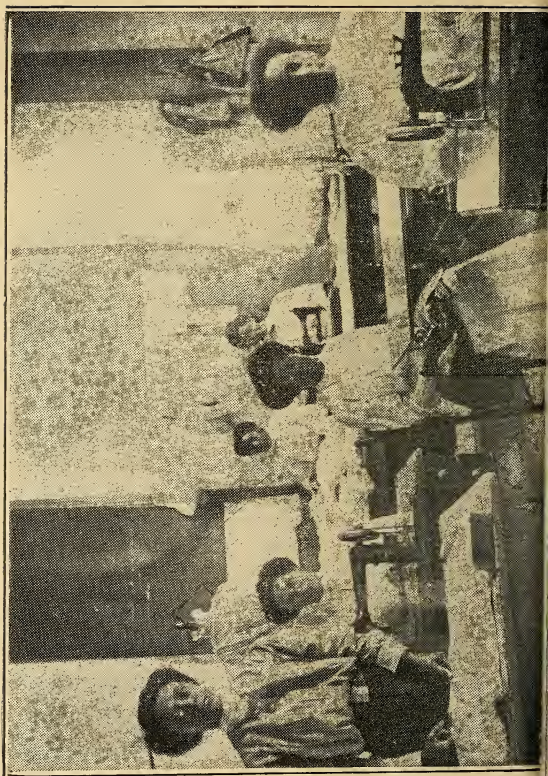
An Antebellum Type

to prepare them for bettering the conditions about them, is made a matter of first consideration in mapping out our course of study and in the life and work of the school.

One of the crying needs of the Negro people in Georgia today is better prepared teachers for the country schools. There has been a general educational awakening throughout the State during the last few years, but it has been confined almost entirely to the whites. So far from being awakened, men in position to observe and competent to judge, declare that the educational conditions among the Negroes in some counties are less favorable today than several years ago. The pay offered in many counties—ranging from $12 to $20 per month—is too small to attract competent teachers, and in many communities the schools are simply kept by persons possessing little or no qualifications for such work. Local taxation would seem to be the natural and easy remedy for such a state of affairs, but people themselves must have a certain amount of intelligence before they are able to see the value of such training or the need of the extra taxation.

The Fort Valley school attempts to show the pupils the needs of the people and to give them the training which will best fit them to meet conditions in the country districts. Students in the upper classes visit schools in the country districts in company with teachers and study the needs and dis-

Class in Sewing



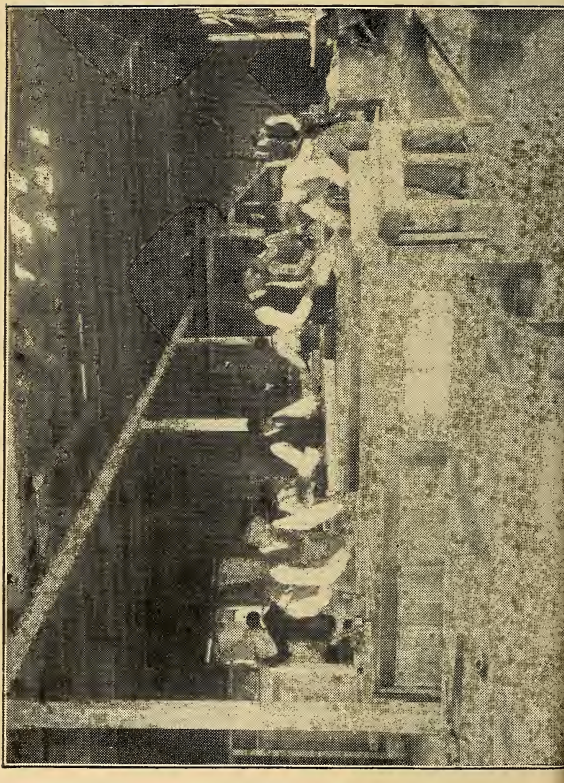
Students from this department find ready employment.

cuss plans and possibilities for overcoming difficulties. The industrial training of the students preparing for country school work is of great value, as it enables them not only to supplement the small salaries received for teaching, by working at their trades as opportunity offers, but they also teach by example the wholesome lesson of the dignity of labor. The old idea that the teacher is not expected to work with his or her hands finds no place in the training of students who go out from this institution.

INDUSTRIAL WORK

In the desire and determination to impress the importance of learning to do things well, all students receive instruction regularly in some line of industrial work, and a part of each school day is given to working with the hands. Besides agriculture, which all students are required to study, and practical garden and farm work, the boys are taught carpentry, brick-laying, plastering; and the girls are taught laundering, cooking, plain sewing, dressmaking and millinery. In every line of industrial work the plan is to give not simply the theory, but by actual work from day to day under the direction of trained teachers to learn to do by doing. The crops of corn, peas, potatoes and garden vegetables grown this year tell of the practical work done on the garden and farm. The Collis P. Huntington Memorial Hall, a

A Class in Carpentry

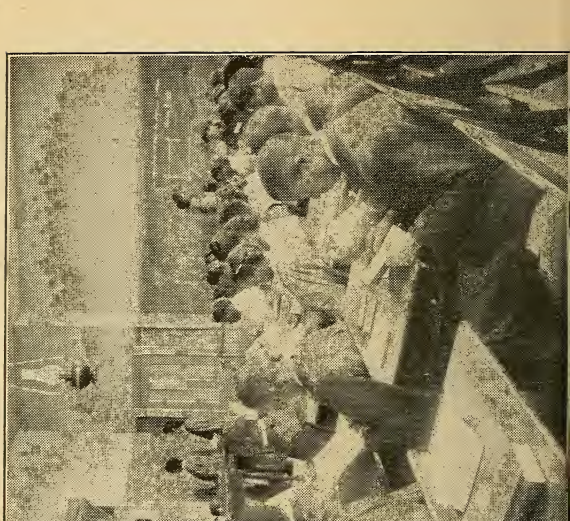


In this shop much of the furniture used in the school is made and repaired.

cut of which appears in this leaflet, is the work of our students under the direction of foremen in the brick-laying and carpentry departments, and the building itself speaks louder than words of the efficient work being done by the students in the building trades. From the digging of the cellar to the staining of the interior finish of this building, the boys in the building trades constituted the working force. In the girls' industries also, commendable progress has been made, but the results are not such as we shall be able to secure when we have better equipment, especially for our laundry, sewing rooms and millinery departments. Equipment for the girls' industrial rooms constitutes one of the pressing needs of the institution at this time.

RELIGIOUS TRAINING AND COMMUNITY WORK

The institution is non-sectarian, but is earnestly Christian in its teaching, and the Bible is used as a text-book. The Sabbath School lessons are taught to pupils in the upper classes in order to prepare them for work in the Sabbath Schools in the community. The members of the Young Women's Christian Temperance Union and the Young Men's Christian Association are active in community work. Committees from these organizations help regularly in the Sabbath Schools of Fort Valley and have also organized and conduct regularly two Sabbath

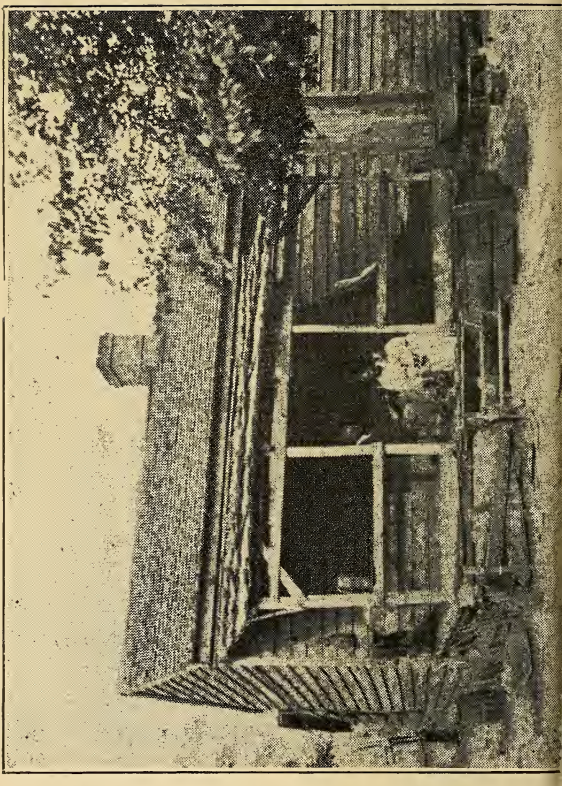


A Group of Pupils in Advanced Grades

Schools for the special benefit of the children living on some of the large peach farms near Fort Valley. Bands of earnest students also go into the community ministering to the needs of the aged and sick, rendering all kinds of service, from the cleaning of the houses to the reading of the Bible. This community work by the students is under the care and direction of the teachers who are also active in the Sabbath Schools of Fort Valley.

One of the most helpful phases of community work has been the mothers' meetings, held sometimes at the school, but usually at some of the nearby homes, for the purpose of discussing questions pertaining to the home life of the people. Proper care of children, suggestions for making the home attractive by cleaning, whitewashing and painting, the value of gardens, proper methods of cooking plain food, and similar subjects are discussed at these meetings.

While conditions about us are far from satisfactory, there is evidence that the work of the school is being felt in the community as a power for good. The buying of new homes and the enlargement and improvement of homes already owned, a willingness to make sacrifice in order to send children to school, tell of an awakening and a desire for better things. The process is a slow one, but the leaven of persistent Christian teaching and example is gradually doing its work.



STUDENTS READING THE BIBLE IN A CABIN HOME.

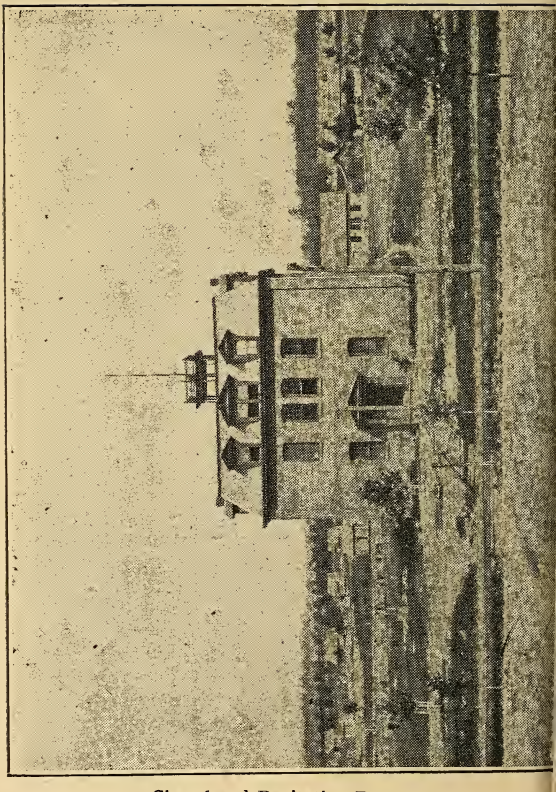
MANAGEMENT AND SUPPORT.

The institution is under the control of a Board of Trustees composed of Northern and Southern men of influence and standing. The school is not connected with any church or religious organization of any kind and receives no aid from the State. The only assured means of support are the income from $2,000 endowment fund and about $500 annually from the county. From the above statement it will be seen that the institution is dependent in large measure upon the voluntary contribution of friends for support. The work is regarded by the best citizens throughout this section as a most worthy charity for a needy class of people.

SCHOLARSHIPS.

Scholarships of fifty dollars ($50) are needed to aid deserving students and especially such as give promise of usefulness. Money donated for this purpose is not given to the student direct, but is used to pay teachers' salaries. Students are expected to write letters when requested by donors, showing the progress made from time to time. Already, in many instances, mutual interest has been aroused between the helper and the helped, which has been productive of good and lasting results. Students thus aided are generally inspired because of it,

CHAPEL HALL



Chapel and Recitation Rooms.

and feel obligated to give their lives for the uplift of their race. One thousand dollars ($1,000) establishes a permanent scholarship, and it is important that as many as possible of these endowment scholarships be speedily secured in order that the work may not be handicapped in the matter of securing good teachers.

NEEDS OF THE INSTITUTION

Under this head it may be well to make a distinction in the matter of the urgency of the needs. While all the items given represent real needs, some are more urgent than others.

Needs

1. Annual scholarships of $50 each to pay for the training of one student a year.

2. $1,000 for permanent scholarships.

3. $1,000 for heating plant.

4. $15,000 for additional farm land and equipment, including barn and silos.

5. $2,500 for enlargement and additional equipment of boys' industries.

6. Books and magazines for library and reading room.

Pressing Needs

1. $10,000 for current expenses. Donations of any size are earnestly solicited for this purpose.

2. $1,000 for lighting buildings and grounds.

3. $350 for alteration in rooms and for additional equipment of the cooking, dressmaking and millinery departments.

4. $2,000 for improvement and equipment of laundry, including water supply and proper sewerage for this department.

5. $500 for additional equipment for farm —one-horse wagon, market wagon, disc harrow, disc plow, mowing machine, hay rake, plows, hand tools, harness, and seed for farm and garden.

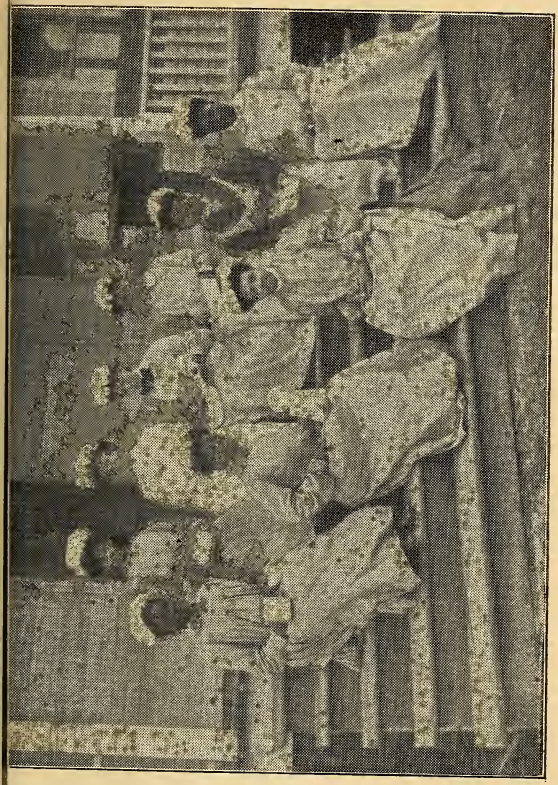
6. $1,500 for equipment and replacement in Huntington Hall and dining room and kitchen.

Cheques should be drawn to The Fort Valley High and Industrial School and may be sent to H. A. Hunt, Principal, Fort Valley, Ga., or Mr. George Foster Peabody, 2 Rector Street, New York.

FORM OF BEQUEST

I give and devise to the Trustees of the Fort Valley High and Industrial School, Fort Valley, Ga., the sum of..... dollars, payable, etc.

A Class in Cooking

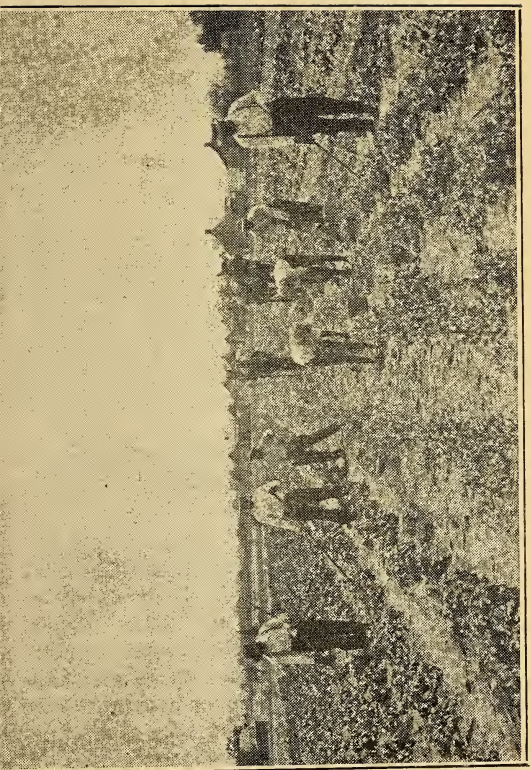


he girls in the cooking classes put into practice, in the school kitchen, the instruction received in the practice kitchen.

TESTIMONIALS

The work is endorsed by the General Educational Board, whose headquarters are at 2 Rector Street, New York, and by prominent men and women both North and South.

From the Atlanta Constitution, the embodiment of true Southern sentiment and the mouthpiece of the South, we have the following: "The existence of the Fort Valley High and Industrial School for Colored People, and the generous manner in which it has been treated by the white people of Georgia, is creditable alike to both races, and outlines the true line of harmony. * * The teachers have the highest conception of the work they have undertaken, and have won the approbation of the leading white citizens of that section. It is the ambition of this school to become to Georgia what Tuskegee now is to Alabama. Located in the heart of the 'Black Belt,' the school can reach the greatest number of colored people, and instruct them in the handicrafts necessary to everyday life. * * The white people of Georgia should give every encouragement to the development and maintenance of this institution, which must in time become one of the recognized agencies of the State. The presence of former State Senator Charles G. Gray in its directory gives an idea of what it really is. Such people abroad as desire to help a school with a real field



Working on the School Farm

of usefulness could not do better than to remember this enterprise of the colored people of Fort Valley."

Dr. Edward Everett Hale: "We are seldom tempted to recommend Northern readers to give pecuniary help to Southern schools, but the appeal from Fort Valley differs from ninety-nine in a hundred of those presented to us."

Dr. Booker T. Washington, Principal of Tuskegee Institute, writes: " * * * I know something of the work being done by Mr. Torbert and his co-workers at the Fort Valley School. If properly supported, I believe that this institution is likely to accomplish a great deal of good among our people in the South, especially in the State of Georgia. * * * My feeling is that any aid given this institution through Mr. Torbert will be wisely used."

Rev. Charles L. Thompson, D.D., New York City: "A good work is evidently being done on a very economical scale."

Hon. G. R. Glenn, former State School Commissioner of Georgia, and at one time assistant to the late Dr. J. L. M. Curry, as agent of the Peabody and Slater Funds. "This school is giving needed industrial training to the Negro race; and those who have money to give, cannot, in my judgment, give more wisely than to this worthy cause."

Mr. James Draper, Worcester, Mass.: "I have visited the Fort Valley High, Normal and Industrial Institute, and highly recommend the good work of that place."

This leaflet is sent out as an appeal for aid with the hope and belief that friends will be found who are in sympathy with our efforts to better conditions among our people, enabling us thus to do our full share in the general development of our common country.

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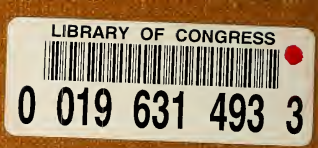
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